

Outing Park (Hollywood)  
Bordered on the north by Adams  
Street, on the east by Richelieu Street,  
on the south by Marble Street, on the  
east by Main Street  
Springfield  
Hampden County  
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-1136

HABS  
MASS,  
7-SPRIF,  
6 -

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

OUTING PARK  
(Hollywood)

HABS No. MA-1136

HABS  
MASS  
7-SPRIF,  
6-

Location

The Hollywood area of Springfield is located approximately one-half mile due south of the commercial business district. The eight-acre area is bordered on the north by Adams Street, east by Richelieu Street, south by Marble Street and west by Main Street. The area is in the City of Springfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts.

USGS Springfield South, Mass.-Conn. Quad-  
rangle Universal Transverse Mercator Coordi-  
nates: A 18.700500.4663140  
B 18.700220.4663100  
C 18.700160.4662860  
D 18.700020.4662780  
E 18.699020.4663000  
(please refer to enclosed Quad-  
rangle map #7).

Present Owners Multiple.

Present Use Urban multi-family residential and retail.

Statement of  
Significance In 1913 one of Springfield's most notable construction firms, Gagnier and Angers Inc., began building "Outing Park." Fourteen years later, forty-four, three and four-story brick apartment blocks had been completed on what was considered to be the last available open land for development in the city. Hollywood, as the development was later called, was and still is the largest and most cohesive apartment district in the city.

PART I. PHYSICAL CONTEXT

Hollywood is located in the "South End" of Springfield one-half mile south of the downtown business area. To the west of Hollywood is Main Street, the linear commercial district of the South End. Adams Street to the north, Marble Street to the south and Richelieu Street to the east consist of one and two-family homes that date from the 1870's and 1880's. To the immediate east of Richelieu Street are the remains of a drumlin that has historically and naturally created a strong eastern edge to the district.

## PART II. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

### A. History of the Hollywood Site

The pre and post-Civil War period was an economically prosperous time for Springfield. Increased commercial activity was occurring in the central business district and growth and expansion was moving southward. The railroad had been established in 1840 along the Connecticut River opening up new sites for industrial development in the South End along the river banks. By the mid and late nineteenth century, an influx of Irish, French Canadian and Italian immigrants had moved to the city in hopes of finding work on the railroads and in the South End industrial districts. The demand for inexpensive housing within walking distance to work and the downtown area resulted in the rapid residential development of the South End. Towards the end of the nineteenth century, the only undeveloped parcel of land remaining in the South End was an eight-acre area known as "Outing Park." This site had been used for a variety of recreational uses during the late nineteenth century (maps #1, #2, #3). In 1913, a plan was prepared for Gagnier and Angers for the "Outing Park" development (photo #1). The development of this eight-acre tract of land began with the construction of four apartment buildings on Saratoga Street. Development continued on Saratoga Street during the next few years while Montpelier and Niagara Street were laid out with construction of six additional four-story blocks (map #4). Oswego, Dwight Street Extension and Bayonne Street development followed in the early 1920's and by 1926, Gagnier and Angers had built forty-two blocks with 657 apartments and four stores. The total project was completed by 1927 consisting of forty-four blocks (map #5).

### B. Gagnier and Angers

Gagnier and Angers was a local Springfield construction firm formed in 1891 by Christopher I. Gagnier and Pierre Angers. Born in New York, Gagnier came to Springfield in 1888 to work as a carpenter. Angers had come the previous year, 1887, from L'Ange Gardien, Canada where he and his family operated a combination saw and planing mill and machine shop.

The firm lasted for more than twenty-five years. In all, Gagnier and Angers constructed eight hundred and thirty-seven edifices in Springfield. They were responsible for developing certain areas of Springfield notably Armory Street (now Armory Commons), the "Chateau," a six-story apartment house on Maple and Temple Streets, a large complex of apartment blocks on Summit Street and of course Hollywood. Their works are also present in other New England cities such as Hartford, Connecticut and Worcester, Massachusetts.

The firm of Gagnier and Angers was dissolved in 1926 with Pierre Angers purchasing the assets of the business. Pierre then sold the rights to his sons: Henry, George, and Laurent A. Angers who incorporated under the name of H. E. Angers and Bros. They continued to build and manage apartment houses as well as conduct a wholesale lumber business (source-Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey B form, Hampden County, 1636-1936, pp. 235-236).

### PART III. ARCHITECTURAL AND VISUAL ASPECTS OF HOLLYWOOD

#### A. Architectural

All of the Hollywood apartments were constructed of brick. The earlier buildings on Saratoga Street are three stories, rectangular in shape with rounded bays, have flat roofs and projecting tin cornices. The entranceways are primarily classical in their derivation and are constructed of concrete, as are the sills and lintels.

The later blocks, generally of the Georgian Revival style, exhibit a variety of colors in brick ranging from brownish red to yellow. These structures are four stories and generally U-shaped in plan with flat roofs and projecting tin cornices. Detailing includes columned entrance porticoes with classical surrounds, splayed lintels, keystone and window surrounds of concrete.

The apartment blocks as groups were constructed in response to the angular grid street layout (photo #1 and map #5). Located close to the street, the blocks have even setbacks with very little space between the individual blocks (15'-20') giving the impression of a solid street block. This massing or grouping of the individual apartment blocks coupled with even setbacks and consistent heights (four stories) is one of the most unique characteristics

of the area. Contributing to this unity, is the consistency in material choice, use and expression.

#### B. Visual

The most significant visual aspects of the Hollywood area are its sense of unity and enclosure. Unity is successfully demonstrated in the composite effects of Hollywood's:

- building heights;
- rhythmic pattern of window and door openings;
- building setbacks;
- choice and expression of materials;
- style and period;
- scale of groupings;
- size of street blocks.

Enclosure in Hollywood is achieved by a balance between street width and the vertical plane of the building walls. These visual assets of Hollywood can be seen in photos #5, #6, #7.

#### PART IV. CHANGES TO HOLLYWOOD

The initial Outing Park Plan derived its name from the site that had locally been referred to as "Outing Park," reflective of its use as an area for rest and recreation. This name carried into the 1920's until, in 1927, Herbert Miller began a furniture moving business on Saratoga Street that he called the Hollywood Express Co. In 1931, a store located at 71 Saratoga took the name Hollywood Market, and by the late 1940's there was a Hollywood Restaurant and Grill, Hollywood Candy Shop and Hollywood Cafe. One source noted that the actress, Eleanor Powell along with other entertainers lived in Hollywood prior to becoming a California film star (source-Springfield Preservation Trust Overview). Regardless of cause, by the late 1940's, the neighborhood was known as "Hollywood."

After the Hollywood project was completed in 1927, more well-to-do tenants began moving into the apartments. A development of this size was new to Springfield and seemed to hold the promise of excitement and convenience of a new style of city living. However, during the 1950's, aided by greater mobility, many of these residents left Hollywood for the suburbs. This move left vacant units and property owners unable to collect enough rent to properly maintain and improve their properties.

By the 1960's, like many cities, Springfield was experiencing an economic decline. Negative impacts were seen in the central business sector, in deteriorating urban neighborhoods and in the general well-being of the people who lived in the City. For the South End neighborhood, this situation was further exacerbated by the construction of Interstate 91 in the 1960's. This construction bisected the South End neighborhood severing its cohesiveness. The Hollywood core began to experience a rapid turnover in tenants. Little incentive tied the inner core residents to the City and the surrounding neighborhood; consequently, neighborhood cohesiveness continued to decline as racial tensions and social fears increased.

Today, thirty-seven of the original forty-four apartment blocks remain. Demolition of seven blocks has been deemed necessary due to public safety hazards as a result of fire damage, vandalism and deterioration due to exposure to weather (photos #8, #9, #10; map #6).

PART V. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Hollywood Park Project is an urban renewal project whose goal is to rehabilitate and to significantly improve the social, economic and physical aspects of the Hollywood area. This will be achieved through the demolition of nine apartment blocks:

MOINEAU BUILDING 16 Saratoga Street	MA-1136-A
MORIN APARTMENT HOUSE 54 Saratoga Street	MA-1136-B
DAIGLE APARTMENT HOUSE 60 Saratoga Street	MA-1136-C
JANISHEFFSKI APARTMENT HOUSE 70 Saratoga Street	MA-1136-D
PAWLOWICZ APARTMENT HOUSE 78 Saratoga Street	MA-1136-E
SULLIVAN APARTMENT HOUSE 82-84 Saratoga Street	MA-1136-F
PREFONTAINE APARTMENT HOUSE 257 Dwight Street Extension	MA-1136-G

LABOEUF APARTMENT HOUSE  
102-104 Oswego

MA-1136-H

PROVOST APARTMENT HOUSE  
47 Richelieu Street

MA-1136-I

for the purpose of creating open space and parking opportunities and through the rehabilitation of existing structures in order to provide for decent, safe and healthy housing.

The project proponent is the Springfield Redevelopment Authority located at 73 State Street, Springfield, Massachusetts.

The development of the project will be a public/private cooperative effort.

A Final Environmental Impact Report EOEI No. 4847  
was filed with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Affairs June 1984 and accepted  
August 1984.

The documentation of the Hollywood area and the nine buildings listed above are the requirements of the National Parks Service in order to comply with stipulation #1 in the Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Springfield and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Office.

Written documentation prepared by:

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May 27, 1985

PART VI SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural Drawings: "Plan of Outing Park" owned by Gagnier and Angers drawn by Steele Bros., C. E. February 1913, File #346 (photo #1 in Outing Park narrative) located in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds, 50 State Street, Springfield, MA. Architectural floor plan drawn 1982 by Carl J. Warfield, AIA, 125 Dwight Street, Springfield, MA 01103.

B. Bibliography

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Deed Books - Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Springfield, MA.

Wills - Probate, Hampden County Court House, Springfield, MA.

Vertical File Collection - Genealogy/Local  
Springfield City Directories 1917-1920 History Department  
Springfield Atlases 1899, Library, Springfield, MA.  
1910, 1920

Building Permit - Springfield Building Department, City Hall, Springfield, MA.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Lonegran, Edmond P., South End Survey Project.  
Springfield Preservation Trust, Springfield,  
Massachusetts July 1983.

Massachusetts Historical Commission MHC Reconnaissance Survey Report. Boston, Massachusetts March 1982.

Springfield Planning Department Massachusetts  
South End Plan September 1979.

Springfield Planning Department The City Profile.  
Springfield, Massachusetts August 1983.

Springfield Planning Department South End Urban  
Renewal Plan January 1982.

Springfield Preservation Trust Overview.

Weber, Margo, Little Hollywood Historical  
District Preliminary Documentation 1983.

Massachusetts Historical Commission Form B -  
Buildings.

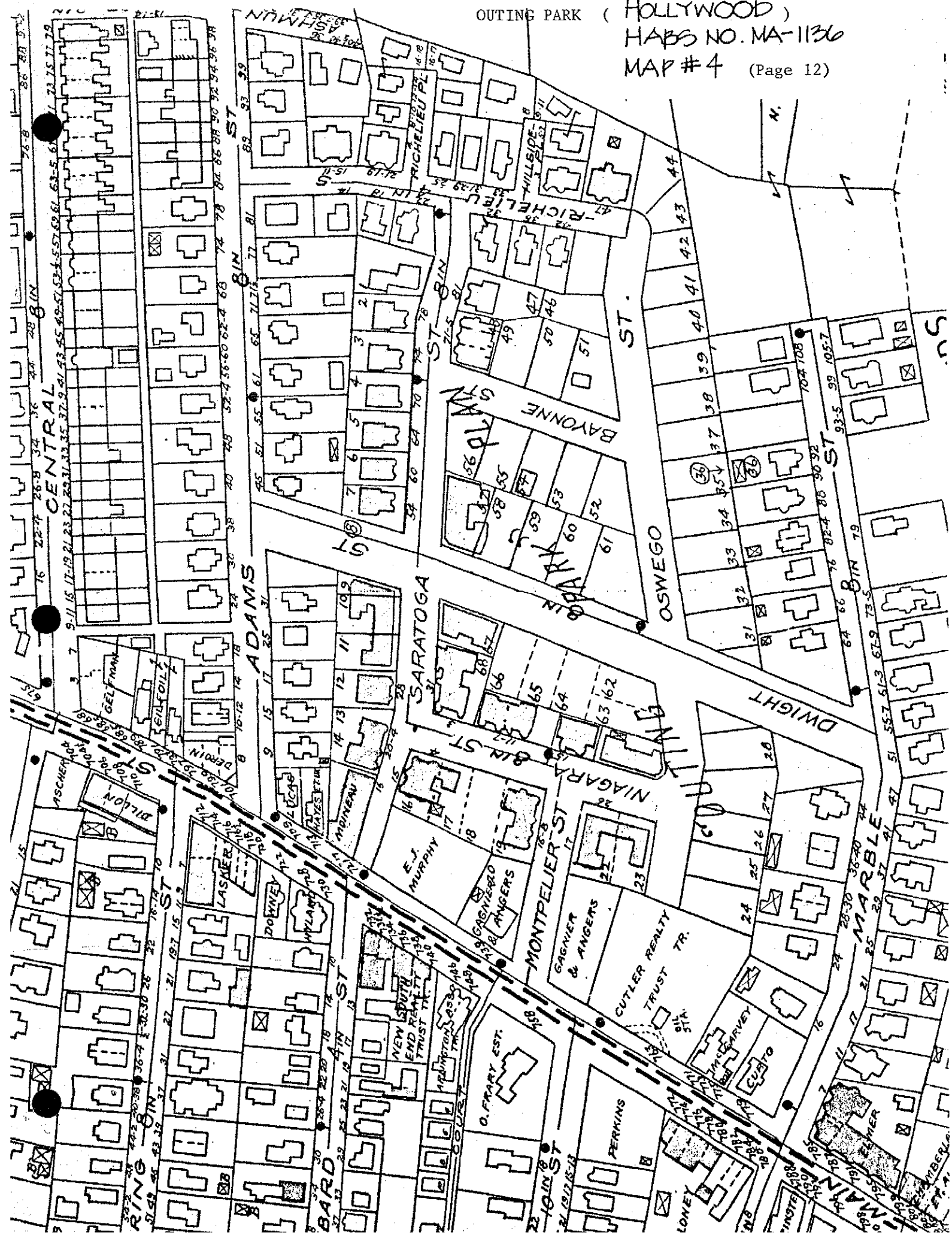
LISTING OF MAPS

- Map #1 "Bird's eye" view of Springfield showing open area called "Outing Park"  
Date: c. mid-19th century.  
Source: Unknown.
- Map #2 Showing Edward R. Cooley Estate  
Date: 1899.  
Source: Springfield City Atlas 1899,  
Springfield City Library.
- Map #3 Showing E. Cooley Estate and PROVOST APARTMENT HOUSE  
HABS NO. MA-1136-I (47 Richelieu).  
Date: 1910.  
Source: Springfield City Atlas 1910,  
Springfield City Library.
- Map #4 Shows "Outing Park" development by Gagnier and Angers half completed.  
Date: 1920.  
Source: Springfield City Atlas 1920,  
Springfield City Library.
- Map #5 The completed "Outing Park" by Gagnier and Angers.  
Date: c. 1930.  
Source: Springfield City Atlas 1924 plus overlay paste-ons,  
Springfield City Library.
- Map #6 Hollywood District  
Date: 1984.  
Source: Environmental Impact Report EOE A No. 4847  
June 1984.
- Map #7 USGS Springfield South, Mass.-Conn. Quadrangle  
(copy of portion).

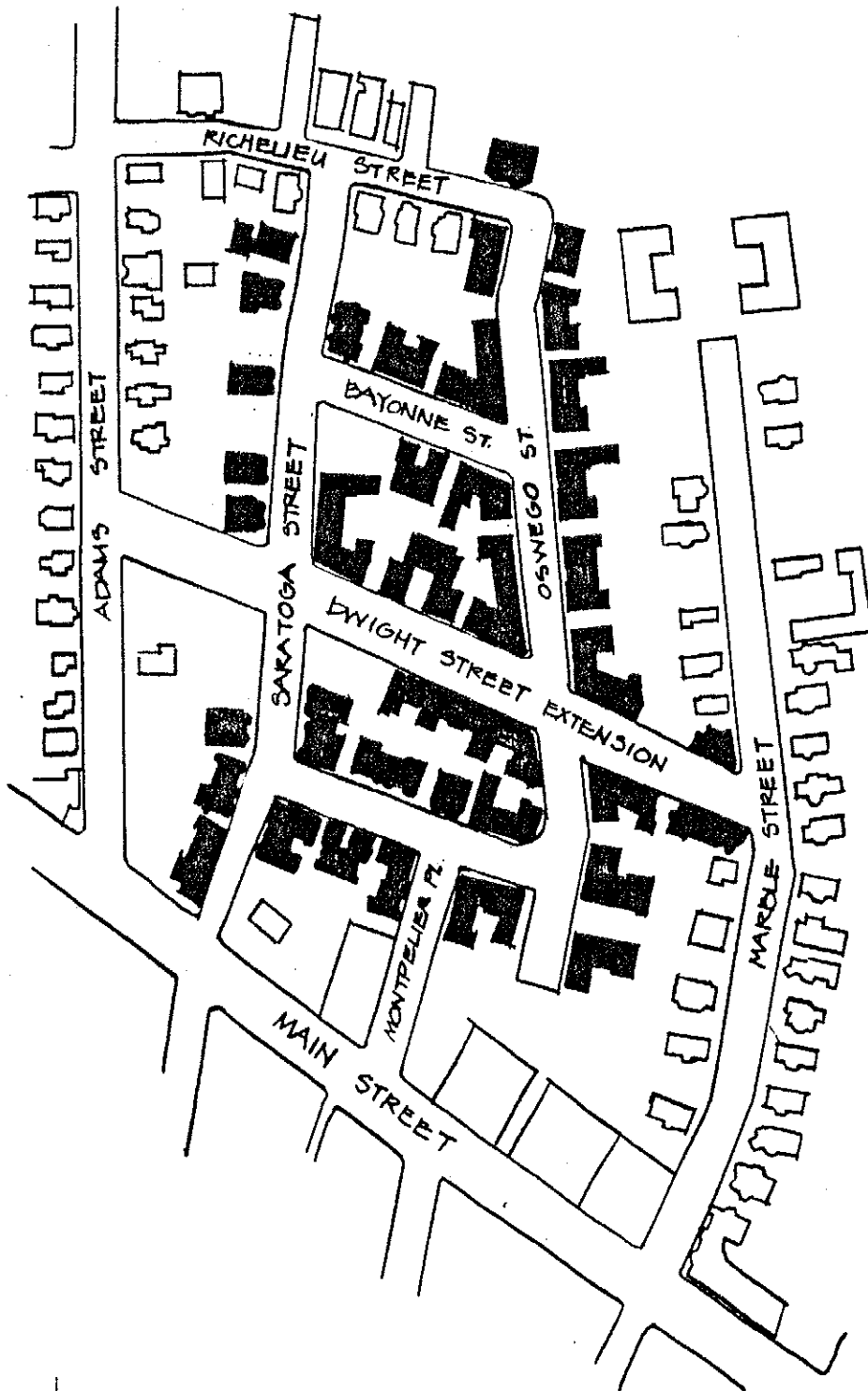












HOLLYWOOD DISTRICT 1984

STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

USGS Springfield South Mass-Co  
Quadrangle

20° 4.4' N  
640 000 FEET (CONN.) 899

35' 100

101 (SPRINGFIELD NORTH) 102

103 32'30"

1320 000 FEET

OUTING PARK (Hollywood)  
HABS NO. MA-1136 MAP#7  
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UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE  
MERCATOR COORDINATES

A 18.700500.4663140  
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C 18.700160.4662860  
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E 18.699020.4663000

